



FINDING THEIR PLACE IN THE MISSION (With help from the Catechism)

Over the past two months, the front cover of Our Holy Redeemer Parish's Sunday bulletin has featured excerpts from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Since the Catechism's publication twenty-five years ago on 11 October 1992, this "reference text" (as Pope Saint John Paul II referred to it) has contributed much to the renewal of Catechesis in the classroom and Parish Life in the world.

On 26 October 2017, that Catechetical renewal brought forty-seven boys and girls to the Altar of Our Holy Redeemer for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. And while that number isn't in itself remarkable, the boys and girls who make up that number are; so remarkable in fact that many of them, even after being sealed with the Holy Spirit, continue to attend Mass AND Class: attributable in no small part to the use of the Catechism at every grade level of education here at Our Holy Redeemer!

The Catechism is helping to make Catholic-Freeporters into disciples of Christ who are not simply disciples but "missionary disciples": believers who are sent to share the Good News with others! (cf. Saint Mark XVI:15). That sharing can take place years into the future as the Holy Spirit leads them to follow Christ into the Priesthood (pray for Brother Pierre Toussaint), the Religious Life (pray for Sister Marie Meaghan), and it can/should take place even as the Sacred Chrism dries on their foreheads. For some, the mission might take them into the Sacred Liturgy as Ushers who welcome people *home*, Musicians and Choir-members who help Mass-goers to *pray twice*, and Lectors who help the word of God *come to life*! For others the mission might take them back into the classroom as Catechists, while for most the mission will take them into the world to make disciples of family members, classmates, and friends by the exercise of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

In order to help our fully initiated Catholics find their place in the mission, other missionary disciples (Deacons, Religious, Lectors, etc.) have been invited to introduce them to their place in the mission. One of those disciples, Brother Timothy Jones from our own De La Salle School, made the following observation about his visit.

"I was pleased to be invited to speak to a gathering of teenagers who have made the Sacrament of Confirmation and who voluntarily return to meet as a group. I had the opportunity to tell them about the vocation of 'brother' in the Church, a minority among the Religious represented mostly by orders of sisters and the more well-known monastic men, or 'monks.'

These young people, in junior high or high school, were cheerful and responsive when engaged by their friendly and lively pastor, Fr. Arcoleo. It struck me that they are looking for some way to actively become more a part of the Church by "doing something." They just need the direction and the push to get involved. There is probably some hesitation, typical of that age, of standing out in public or of being in the adults' shadow, but with the right project or service, perhaps performed as a group, these are young people the parish can be proud of." *Brother Timothy Jones, FSC Brothers of the Christian Schools*

Please join me in helping our young missionary disciples discern their place in the mission with help from the following "discernment prayer" of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

My Jesus, I have not always recognized Your loving plans for me.
Every day, with the help of Your light, I learn more of Your loving care.
Continue to increase my awareness of the gentleness of Your loving plans.
I want to follow the purpose for which I was created.
See, I am in Your hands. I need You to help me choose the best way to serve You.
Walk with me, Jesus. Stay by my side and guide me!